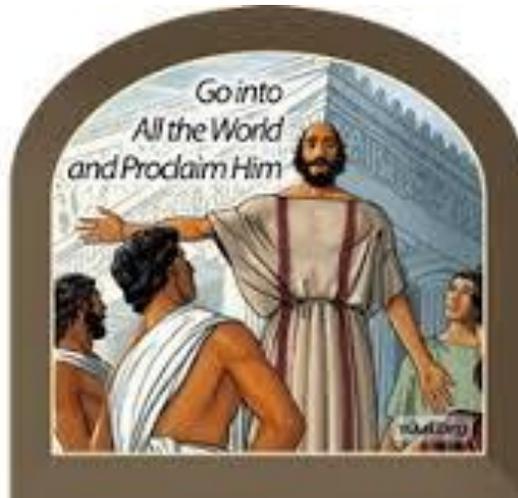


THE SEASON AFTER  
**PENTECOST**  
*A Season of Christ's Harvest*



**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**  
**September 13, 2020**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**P:** Loving God,

**C:** We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.

**Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live as your children. Amen.**

**P:** Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God’s love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: “Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior.”

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN: “Morning Has Broken” #556 ELW**

*Please sing along in your cars.*



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;  
 2 Sweet the rain’s new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ’ry morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where God’s feet pass.  
 God’s re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune  
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

**GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

## LITANY FOR PENTECOST

**P:** The word is near you,

**C: on your lips and in your heart.**

**P:** If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**P:** Faith comes from what is heard.

**C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" #836 ELW

*Everyone is invited to sing along in their cars.*



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

## SALUTATION

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**ANTHEM: “My Prayer” Kyla Betts and Tracy Becker**

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

<sup>14-15</sup> After burying his father, Joseph went back to Egypt. All his brothers who had come with him to bury his father returned with him. After the funeral, Joseph’s brothers talked among themselves: “What if Joseph is carrying a grudge and decides to pay us back for all the wrong we did him?”

<sup>16-17</sup> So they sent Joseph a message, “Before his death, your father gave this command: Tell Joseph, ‘Forgive your brothers’ sin—all that wrongdoing. They did treat you very badly.’ Will you do it? Will you forgive the sins of the servants of your father’s God?”

When Joseph received their message, he wept.

<sup>18</sup> Then the brothers went in person to him, threw themselves on the ground before him and said, “We’ll be your slaves.”

<sup>19-21</sup> Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid. Do I act for God? Don’t you see, you planned evil against me but God used those same plans for my good, as you see all around you right now—life for many people. Easy now, you have nothing to fear; I’ll take care of you and your children.” He reassured them, speaking with them heart-to-heart.

**L:** The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Beautiful Savior”**

*Everyone is invited to sing along in their cars.*

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

<sup>21</sup> At that point Peter got up the nerve to ask, “Master, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, “Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

<sup>23-25</sup> “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

<sup>26-27</sup> “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

<sup>28</sup> “The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

<sup>29-31</sup> “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

<sup>32-35</sup> “The king summoned the man and said, ‘You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” #359 ELW**

*Everyone is invited to sing along in their cars.*



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;  
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;  
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;  
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.  
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.  
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.  
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.  
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.  
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.  
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842  
Text © 1960 World Library Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*Honk your horns three times after each petition.*

**P:** You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*Honk your horns to greet one another.*

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

### **ANOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BENEDICTION**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**